

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method performed on a computer system operationally coupled to computer readable memory for storing a set of records each having a data key, said method for sorting based on collation information of a particular culture pertaining to said set of records, comprising:

reading at least one locale token associated with the set of records, the locale token identifying at least one locale object having collation information;

using at least the locale object to locate and read the collation information;

creating at least one culturally correct collation key for at least some data keys associated with at least some records; and

using at least one culturally correct collation key, sorting the set of records into at least one culturally correct sorted order.

2. The method of claim 1, further including operating the computer system in a distributed computing environment.

3. The method of claim 2, further including:
- using a pointer to locate the set of records; and
- using the locale token to identify at least one coded character set.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said set of records is structured.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein keyed records of said set of records each includes a data field.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said locale token is appended to said set of records.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the act of creating said culturally correct collation key is performed using at least one collation engine.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one culturally correct collation key is collated using a comparator.

9. The method of any of claim 4, further including displaying said set of records.

10. A computer program product for use in a computer system operatively coupled to a computer readable memory, the computer program product including a computer-readable data storage medium tangibly embodying computer readable program code for directing said computer to sort a set of records each having a data key based on collation information of a particular culture pertaining to said set of records, said code comprising:

means for instructing said computer system to read a locale token associated with the set of records, the locale token identifying a preferred locale object having collation information;

means for instructing said computer system to use the preferred locale object to locate and read the collation information;

means for instructing said computer system to create a culturally correct collation key for each data key associated with the each record; and

5 means for instructing said computer system to use the created culturally correct collation keys to sort the set of records into a culturally correct sorted order.

11 12. The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising means for instructing said computer system to operate the computer system in a distributed computing environment.

12 13. The computer program product of claim 12 further comprising:
10 means for instructing said computer system to use a pointer to locate the set of records; and
means for instructing said computer system to use the locale token to identify a preferred coded character set.

13 14. The computer program product of any of claim 11 wherein said set of records is structured.

14 15. The computer program product of claim 14 wherein keyed records of said set of keyed
15 records each includes a data field.

16 16. The computer program product of claim 14 further comprising means for instructing said computer system to append said locale token to said set of records.

2022. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the method acts undertaken by the computer system further include configuring said system to operate in a distributed computing environment.

21/ 23. The computer system of claim 22 wherein the method acts undertaken by the computer system further include:

5 using a pointer to locate the set of records; and
using the locale token to identify a preferred coded character set.

22 24. The computer system of claim 21 wherein said set of records is structured.

23 25. The computer system of claim 21 wherein keyed records of said set of records each includes a data field.

10 26. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the method acts undertaken by the computer system further include configuring said system to append said locale token to said set of records.

25 27. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the method acts undertaken by the computer system further include configuring said system to create said collation key via a collation engine.

26 28. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the method acts undertaken by the computer system
15 further include configuring said system to collate said collation key via a comparator.

2) 29. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the method acts undertaken by the computer system further include configuring said system to display said records.

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